



Biblical Foundations

Course I - Bible Basics

From History to Daily Use

Week 8 Reading Biblical Genres:
The Revelation

Objective:



To understand the various types of writing in the Bible (genres). To begin to understand the guidelines that inform how we read each of those genres.

Characteristics of The Revelation:

- **Fulfillment of the Old Testament**

- 250 allusions
- descriptions of the Church parallel Israel's history
- Metanarrative plot resolved

A Parallel Comparison of Israel and the Church

P H Y S I C A L	Israel	R E D S E A	Moses 	J O R D A N	Promised Land
	Bondage in Egypt		Israel in Wilderness		Canaan
S P I R I T U A L	All Mankind	B L O O D	Christ 	2nd C O M I N G	Promised Land
	Bondage in Sin		Church in Spiritual Wilderness		Heaven

Characteristics of The Revelation cont.:

- Purposely arranged in numbered sets
 - Three primary themes of sevens

$$3 (+4) = 7$$

- Numerology
 - **Three** – completeness, harmony, unity, wholeness – Trinity
 - **Four** – completeness, Creation and time - gospels, land, seasons
 - **Seven** – completeness, perfection, divine power - ETERNAL harmony between God and His creation – precedes rest



in The Revelation:

- **36 Sevens in 18 Images:**
churches, letters, spirits,
lampstands, stars, seals,
horns, eyes, angels,
trumpets, thunders,
thousand people, heads,
crowns, plagues, bowls,
hills, kings.

Characteristics of The Revelation cont.:

- **Elements of:**

- Poetry
- Narrative
- Letter (encyclical)
- Apocalyptic
Prophecy

A hand holding a sign that says "Help!" above a pile of crumpled paper. The sign is white with the word "Help!" written in orange cursive. The hand is holding a wooden stick that supports the sign. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The pile of crumpled paper is white and occupies the bottom half of the image.

Help!

Aspects of Letter:

- Greeting
- Author
- Recipient
- Prayer (benediction)
- Body
- Conclusion (farewell)
- Encyclical
 - ONE WHOLE letter to all seven Churches
- Occasional
 - One reason the WHOLE letter was sent
 - The FIRST reason for writing

Apocalyptic Literature: Apokalupto (Gk), apocalypse, apocalyptic

“to reveal”
or
“to unveil”



The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John, the Apostle.

There is only ONE Revelation!

Apocalyptic Prophecy

Old Testament Prophecy

- Concerned with God's activities IN History
 - Do NOW what God has ALREADY said
 - or God WILL BRING judgment in YOUR TIME

Apocalypse

- Concerned with how God is working OUTSIDE History to bring an END to History
 - God is bringing divine eternal judgment (no time left to repent)
 - God is ushering in a new age

Aspects of Apocalyptic Prophecy:

- Used from 200BC to 200AD
- Usually pseudonymous
- Features an Angelic mediator and guide
- Warns of trials to come
- Encourages the faithful to persevere in light of coming deliverance
- **Fantastical** symbolic imagery, but not mysterious to the first audience

Behind The Revelation

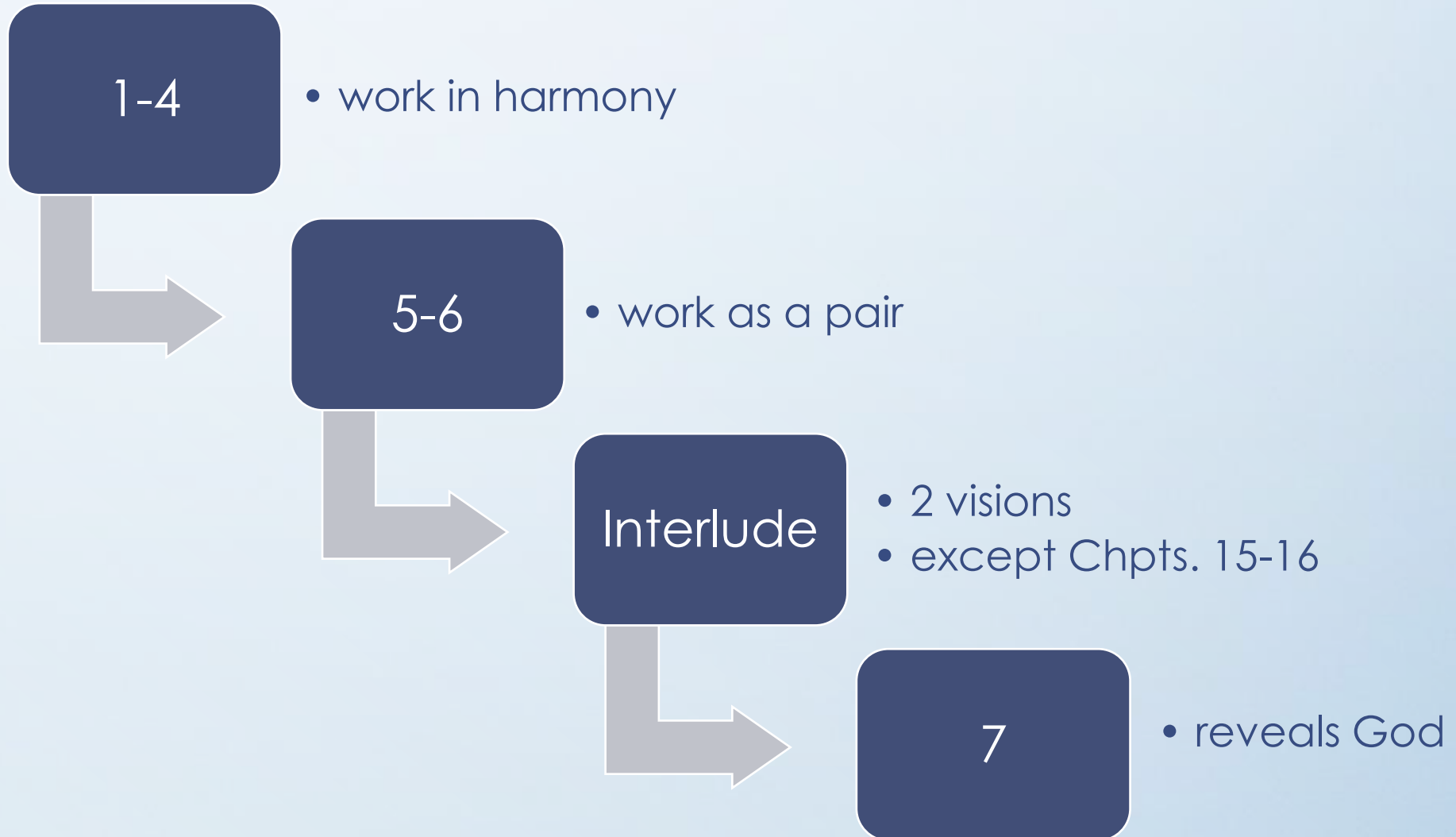
Author	Audience	Context	Occasion	Purpose
God	Seven Churches	Asia 60-90 AD	The time is near! (1:3)	Warn of coming persecution
John	- Real	Roman Occupation		Encourage perseverance
	-Representative	Domitian		Announce God's judgments

This is what it means to overcome...



To Him who loves us and **has freed us from our sins by His blood** and has made us to be a Kingdom of Priests to serve His God and Father – to Him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen. Revelation 1:5b-6

Three Themes of Sevens: Chapters 6-16



Revelation 12

Theological key:

Satan is the
NOW **and** NOT YET DEFEATED
enemy of God's people.



Principles for reading Apocalyptic Literature

...

- Read it as literature first
- Understand symbolic images as they are explained internally (or by comparison to other examples of the same in scripture)
 - They are not “fluid” or open to interpretation
- Remember that it is selective and limited
 - Understanding comes from the WHOLE vision, not the individual parts
- Don't read INTO it: It is not meant to be literally predictive of historically chronological signs (remember the literature!)

Don't confuse...

- **Tribulation**

- The suffering the Church will endure at the hands of her enemies

- **Wrath**

- The judgment of God poured out on His enemies: the enemies of His people

It means NOW what it meant THEN!

God's judgment will be poured out on His enemies
and while we wait,
discipleship goes the way of the cross.

This is what it means to overcome!

Assignment:

Read and ENJOY The Revelation!!

